



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant : John MacAlister

TITLE : A MOUNT

Serial No. : 09/905,261

Filing Date : 13 July 2001

Examiner/Unit : Nasser Ahmad / 1772

## Appeal Brief

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TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The Applicant herewith submits an appeal brief relating to the Notice of Appeal also submitted today in regard to Application 09/905,261.

Provision for charging fees for this Appeal Brief is included with those for the Notice of Appeal and a petition for one month's extension

Should the examiner feel that a 'phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the applicant, John MacAlister, on +44 1728 668 204, at any time, notwithstanding the time-zone differences, or to fax + 44 1728 668 664, giving a convenient time for the applicant to call back.

Submitted by

John MacAlister

9<sup>th</sup> August, 2006



**Appeal Brief**

Application : 09/905, 26

Title : A Mount

Filing Date : July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Applicant : John MacAlister

Examiner : Nasser Ahmad

Art Unit : 1772

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**Real Party of Interest**

The real party of interest in application 09/905, 261, is the inventor and Applicant in the matter, John MacAlister, of Clockhouse 1, Rookery Park, Yoxford, Suffolk, IP17 3HQ, UK.

**Related Appeals and Interferences**

None

**Status of Claims**

Page 6 shows the current status of the claims for 09/905,261

Broadly, all claims which have not been cancelled have had the rejections in view of Su et al withdrawn, to be replaced by rejections due to Wilkins or/and Treglown.

## STATUS OF CLAIMS

Item	Status
Claim 1	
2	Cancelled
3	Cancelled
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	Cancelled
11	Cancelled
12	Cancelled
13	Cancelled
14	
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19	Cancelled
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21	Cancelled
22	Cancelled
23	Cancelled
24	Cancelled
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29	Cancelled
30	Cancelled
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KEY	Rejection in last Office Action - 35 USC 112 withdrawn
	Rejections maintained - 35USC 102(e) Unpatentable over Wilkins
	Rejections maintained - 35USC 103(a) Unpatentable over Wilkins
	Now Rejected - 35USC 103(a) Unpatentable over Treglown

**Status of Amendments**

No amendments have been made following, or as a result of, the most recent (final) rejection.

## **Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The subject matter in the independent claims involved in the appeal can be found as shown below

### **CLAIM**

"1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive. "

### **Related material:**

Under "Brief Summary of the Invention", page 1, col 2, please see paragraph 0017, et seq., which introduces the concept, supported by para 0028, which expands on the use of cling properties to adhere the invention to glass, while 0035 gives detail on the achievement of optimum "cling" properties to adhere the mount to glass.

Fig 4, the illustration used on the front page of the application, clearly shows a plurality of the mount, 5, for attaching a first material, 7, such as paper, to a second material such as glass, 8.

Paragraphs 0030 – 0032 discuss the use of adhesive on the second side of the invented mount, which will then adhere the mount to a first material, enabling the device, using the untreated opposing, first, surface, to mount the first material, usually paper, to glass.

As to the mount, in the claim, attaching "to part of the surface of a sheet object", paragraphs 0037-0039 and 0041 make clear the route to the present dimensions and shapes detailed in dependent claims such as claim 5, 14-16

These dimensional considerations are expanded on in claims 26 and 35.

Other dependent claims, 4, 25,36, 40 and 41 refer to the fact that the mount is intended to be placed between the first material, typically a paper sheet object and the second material, such as glass, by detailing that the adhesive-coated side and the untreated "cling" side of the mount are mutually opposite and the mount is flat – which is discussed in 0027.

## **CLAIM**

**36.** A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:

- releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and
- securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

### **Related material:**

The invention of the mount is clearly associated with its use, which like the mount, is also claimed to be novel. ie, if no-one has invented a mount which uses adhesive on one side and "cling" on the other to mount paper to glass, the method is also new.

This claimed new method of mounting a sheet object, such as paper, to a second surface such as glass, is in claim 36 and associated claims 37-40 and discussed in the specification at paragraph 0017 and in Fig 4 and its description on page 4, paragraph 0059.

**Grounds of Objection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The Appellant requests that the following grounds be reviewed on appeal:

1. Whether claims 25-28, 33-40 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Wilkins (6038803)
2. Whether claims 1, 4-8, 16-18 and 41 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)
3. Whether claims 14-15 and 31-32 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)
4. Whether claims 1 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Treglown (Application GB2333050)

## **Argument**

It is not the Appellant's intention here to argue the case for the present application claim-by-claim but to evince that the blanket rejection of the application at this stage in the proceedings is in error due to the Examiner's misinterpretation of the cited arts.

The Appellant would refer the Board to the history of the application, in which little or no change has had to be made to the application due to arts cited previously but, rather, each time, the rejections have been withdrawn as the Appellant has been able to clarify the proper interpretation of the cited arts.

**The Appellant wishes it to be known that, while it might not likely have made a case for a hearing under the USPTO's new pre-appeal review procedure, he has been quite dismayed that the Examiner has chosen to cite, sequentially over 4 years, prior arts some of which were disclosed by the Applicant before the first Office Action, in 2002. Treglown (GB2333050), for example, was disclosed in July 2002, as soon as the UK Patent Office had cited (and withdrawn) it – see GB2,369,601B. The Examiner cited GB2333050 in November 2005, having first considered it on 12/01/2002 and failed to cite it at that time.**

For information, the chronology of the citing of arts is shown in the "Evidence" section of this brief, pp 20, 21.

.....

The Appellant will now address each of the two currently cited arts, to show the Board that the intended use of these - and their structures – distance them from the present application.

**Cited Art: Treglown (GB2333050), "Blue Tabs"**

This art, a copy of which is in the "Evidence" pages, sets out "to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape."

The inventors sought a non-porous flexible film to use as a barrier to prevent staining and damage, by mastics, to the back of posters. At no time does the application refer to the invention as anything but a barrier device with a means of fixing this to the back of the poster.

Neither does this art anywhere refer to mounting a poster on glass. Indeed, the whole invention claims its use for application to the REAR of a poster, for the purposes of protecting said poster when mastic is used to mount the poster on a WALL or a similar surface. To quote : "As shown in Fig 2, the tabs<sup>3</sup> are used in mounting a poster 5 formed of paper or thin card, on a rigid substrate such as a wall. It will be appreciated that the poster could equally be mounted on any other suitable surface, such as a door or ceiling for example"

The words, "window" or "glass" or, importantly, "cling" never appear in this art, which concerns itself solely with facilitating the use of mastics.

In view of the above, plus the fact that the PVC referred to as one of several possible plastics to be used in the tabs is not attributed any cling properties, the Appellant contends that it is too tenuous to suppose that the present application, which is invented as a new way to attach posters to, principally, glass, is informed by such a device for improving the use of a quite different mounting medium on walls or doors.

The Appellant believes that the keyword search having produced this art, the Examiner should, according to 35 U.S.C. 112 para 6, recognise the difference between the intended uses and the structures of the two inventions and accord the present application recognition of the inventive step it represents.

Note for information : There is presently no admission or claim in the present application's claims concerning the cling properties of PVC, which means that, since the Examiner required the removal of claims which appeared to claim invention of the cling properties of the mounts, the only reference remaining to the actual composition of PVC used is in the specification (0035 et seq.).

**Cited Art: Wilkins, F.E. (US 6038803), "Apparatus for decorating picture holders with seasonal or other displays"**

The Examiner's case for rejecting the present appealed application over Wilkins rests on one main footing:- He contends that, to quote Office Action 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005...

"Wilkins relates to a mount (D,E) consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive (col. 3, line 50-60)

With regard to this assertion:

1. Wilkins never claims a mount. Never uses the word. A mount, by definition, takes one material and mounts it on another. Wilkins has invented a single sheet for attaching itself - and nothing else – to a glass-covered picture. This intended use results in a structure which is a self-cling single sheet with printer's ink or paints on one side (its 'front') and a clean, unprinted side(the 'back'), by which to attach itself to the existing glass-covered picture.
2. There is no reference in Wilkins to "having a first surface carrying an adhesive". What the Examiner leans on in his assertion, is the sentence appended to the explanations of each of two figures : "Optionally, a tacky adhesive may be used to secure the decorative covering D to the original picture B.", which we examine later.

Wilkins entire premise, as the Appellant has stated previously in arguments, is that her invented sheet is simple, having an opaque picture printed over one side of the plastic and able to cling to the glass frame by the cling properties of the other, unprinted, side. There is nothing more to it. Her patent is for a special use of the display industry's well-used technology for self-cling signs, such as "Sale" signs.

Why does she then refer at all to adhesive?

Consider the statement immediately before she does so :- (col 3, line 54) "Once again the particular material used can be varied PROVIDED THAT the chosen material exhibits static cling to permit the decorative covering D to be electrostatically adhered over the original picture B."

Clearly, since there is therefore no pre-existing adhesive on the structure, it is to cover the eventuality that the invented self-cling sheet may not attach itself to the picture frame glass (because of dimpled non-reflective glass, perhaps) that she adds the option to use tacky adhesive when it comes to actually adhering the decorative sheet.

This adhesive is not part of the structure. Not part of the invention.

In the absence of adhesive in the specification of the structure, the Appellant contends that the tacky adhesive referred to is intended to be applied to the join between the invented sheet and the original picture on an ad-hoc basis, just as the invented sheet is being deployed on the glass OR, more significantly, in view of the Examiner's assertion, the adhesive may be applied initially to the glass and not to the invented structure. It is certainly not imported to the situation as part of the structure.

Nor is adhesive specified to adhere the protective backing. Quite the reverse... (Col 4, line 32) \*\* : "The protective backing may be formed from any material which can be electrostatically adhered to the decorative covering E." . This limitation is important.

It is therefore an incorrect assumption by the Examiner to state, above, "Wilkins relates to a mount (D,E) consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive (col. 3, line 50-60). (Applicant's underlines)

The Examiner has failed to respond adequately to this argument and the Appellant respectfully asks that the Board give it their consideration.

Finally, with regard to Wilkins, the Examiner also asserts on her behalf that she has invented a mount which "carries" adhesive on it : (Office Action 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005) : "Wilkins also teaches a method for securing a first material to a second material comprising releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material (F) which is well known to be paper in the adhesive art, with an adhesive carried by the first surface and securing the second surface to a second material (1) without adhesive"

Let us examine this.

**First**, referring to Fig 5, Wilkins attaches her protective sheet, if any, to the BACK of the invented cling sheet using that very property, cling, to protect the cling properties. She proposes adhesive not be used for this, as the paragraph 5 before this. See above.\*\*

**Second**, the "cling" BACK of the invented sheet being thus burdened with the (paper) protection, the FRONT side of the invented sheet, E, is the one over which indicia has been printed and which, as a result, has no cling properties. How, then, can the Examiner suppose that his alleged Wilkins "mount" might work?

The Appellant hopes that the Board, examining the intentions of the inventors, the intended uses of the devices and the resulting structures, will agree that the present application is not unpatentable over either Treglown or Wilkins and indeed, may go forward to grant.

.....

**Claims Appendix**

There follows a copy of the claims involved in the appeal, namely :

Claim |

Claims 4-9

Claims 14-18

Claims 25-28

Claims 31-41

1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive.
4. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first and second surfaces of the mount are mutually opposite.
5. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first surface of the mount adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of the sheet object to form the mountable arrangement.
6. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount releasably secures the mountable arrangement directly to glass.
7. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
8. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is flexible.
9. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is transparent.
14. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2 mm.
15. A mount according to claim 14, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
16. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is square, rectangular, triangular or circular.
17. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
18. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount comprises a pigment material.
25. A mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet object permanently or releasably to form a mountable arrangement and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive, where the first and second

surfaces are mutually opposite.

- 26.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface carrying an adhesive coating, adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement.
- 27.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
- 28.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the mount is flexible.
  
- 31.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2mm.
- 32.** A mount according to claim 31, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
- 33.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
- 34.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface of the mount is adhered releasably to a backing material.
- 35.** A mount according to claim 25, wherein the entire surface of the mount is adhered to less than half of the area of a surface of a sheet object for permitting the said sheet object to be mounted to glass.
- 36.** A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
  - releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and
  - securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.
- 37.** The method according to claim 36, wherein the first material is a paper-based material.
- 38.** The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material is a glass-based material.
  
- 39.** The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material has a smooth surface.
- 40.** A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
  - adhering a first surface of a mount to a part of one surface of a sheet of paper with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and the sheet of paper form a mountable arrangement; and

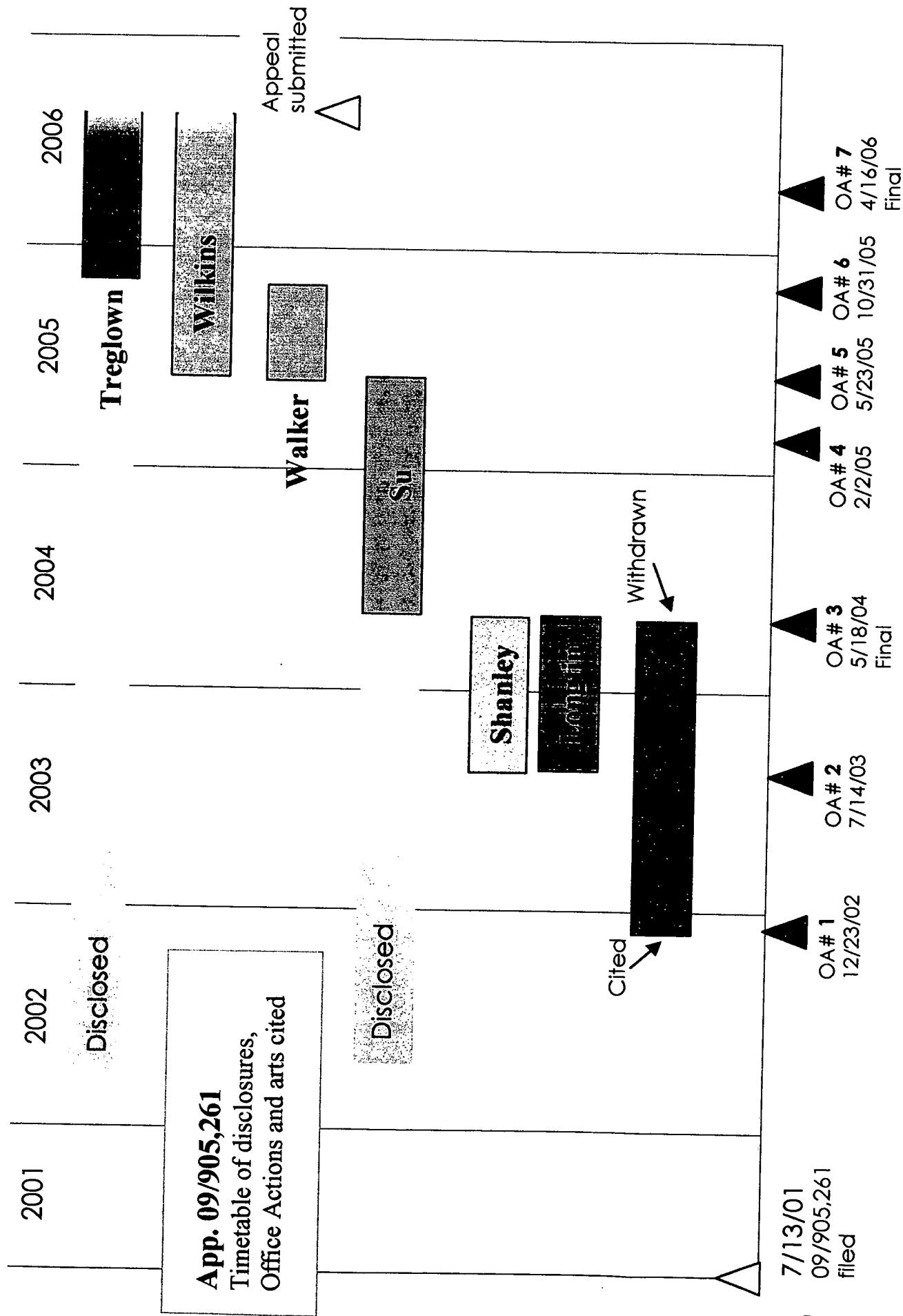
- securing a second surface of the mount to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and each mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

**41.** A mount arrangement for mounting paper to glass comprising:  
a plurality of mounts, each mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet of paper to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface capable of securing such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive; where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite.

## **Evidence Appendix**

This appendix contains the following items of evidence :

1. For information, the chronology of the current and other cited arts is shown in 2 pages in this section : pp 20 & 21
2. Present Application : (09/905,261) Publication Date : July 18, 2001 : 9 pages
3. Wilkins's US patent, 6038803, first entered by the Examiner in a non-final rejection, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005 : 7 pages.
4. Treglowan's abandoned UK application, GB2333050, first entered by the Examiner in a non-final rejection 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 : 10 pages



## Chronology of Transactions

Inventor	Cited art title	Number	Date	Date cited	Rejection withdrawn	NOTES
Kassab, P.K.	Static cling intermediary	6,258,200	7/10/2001	Non-final OA#1 12/23/2002	5/18/2004	Longtin And Shanley cited in Kassab
Longtin, A.G.	Piggyback assembly of static cling decal, intermediate layer and adhesive web	5,334,431	2/8/1994	Non-final OA#2 7/14/2003	5/18/2004	Kassab Maintained Longtin, Shanley cited
Shanley, T.M.	For use by personnel of vehicle and equipment service organizations, manufactured, partially preprinted, service invoice record forms, having piggyback vinyl static cling customer service information labels are provided, for completion of all respective service	5,403,025	4/4/1995	Non-final OA#2 7/14/2003	5/18/2004	" " "
Su, C-F	Adhesive plate assembly for sheet object	5,462,782	10/31/1995	Non-final OA#3 5/18/2004	5/23/2005	Kassab, Longtin, Shanley objections withdrawn. Su cited first considered by examiner 12-01-02 after disclosure by applicant
				Final Rej'tn OA#4 02/02/2005		: Su maintained, no new cited arts
Wilkins, F.E.	Apparatus for decorating picture holders with seasonal or other displays	6,038,803	3/21/2000	Non-final OA#5 5/23/2005		Rejections of Su withdrawn. Wilkins and Walker now cited
Walker, M.R.	Wrap film dispenser:film cutter	GB2272682	5/25/1994	" "	?	
Treglown, L. A.	Blue tabs	GB2333050	7/14/1999	Non-final OA#6 10/31/2005		Treglown first considered by examiner 12-01-02 after disclosure by applicant. Rejection of Walker withdrawn?
				Final Reject'n OA#7 4/17/2006		No new cited arts. Examiner sustains Wilkins, Treglown objections

# UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 333 050 (13) A

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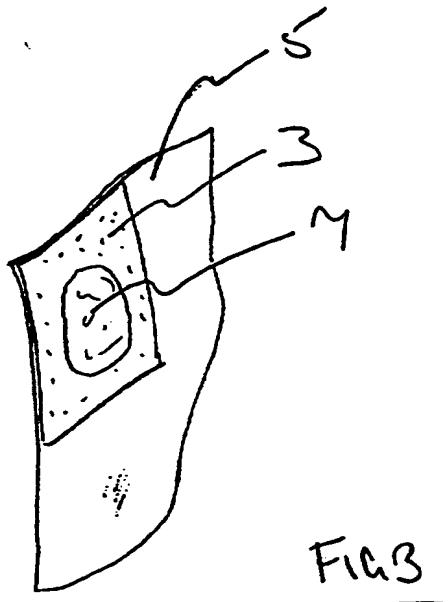
(52) UK CL (Edition Q )  
B2E EM  
A4X X14

(56) Documents Cited  
GB 2320448 A GB 2207350 A

(58) Field of Search  
UK CL (Edition Q ) A4X XU25 X14 , B2E EM  
INT CL<sup>6</sup> A47G 1/17  
Online: WPI, JAPIO, EPDOC

(54) Abstract Title  
Blue tabs

(57) A Blue Tab 3(Fig 3) is applied to a poster 5(Fig 3) or other items made from paper or other absorbent material, to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty 7(Fig 3) or sticky tape. The Tab is a non-porous piece of flexible film where a relatively thin layer of pressure sensitive adhesive has been applied to one surface 14(Fig 4). The Tab may be of any pre-formed shape but, preferably, it will have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges. The backing sheet 12 (Fig 4) to which the Tab is releasably secured, provides a combined carrier for the tab and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust and dirt. The tabs may be formed from PVC or polyethylene.



GB 2 333 050 A

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

At least one of these pages has been prepared from an original which was unsuitable for direct photoreproduction.

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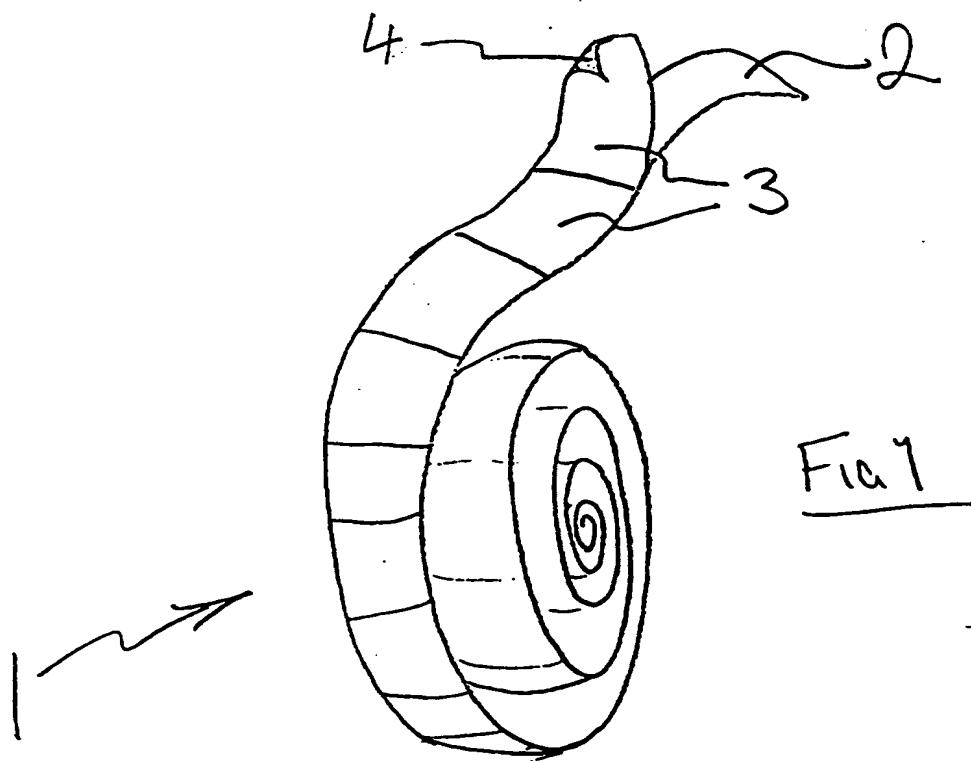
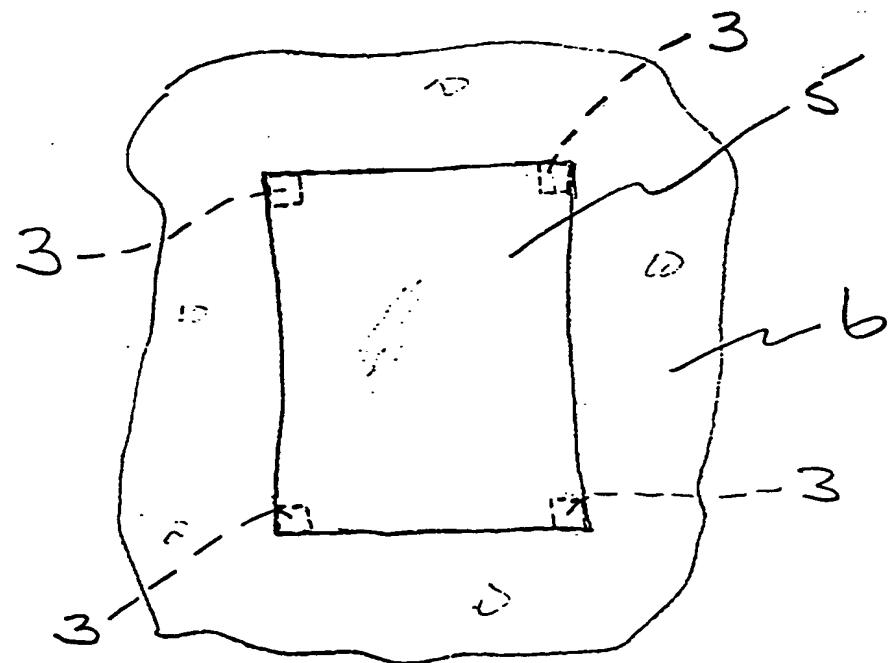


Fig 2



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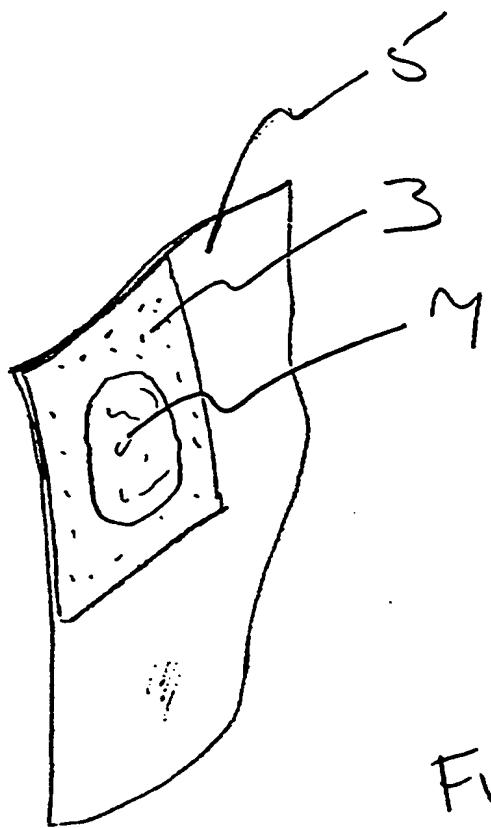


FIG 3

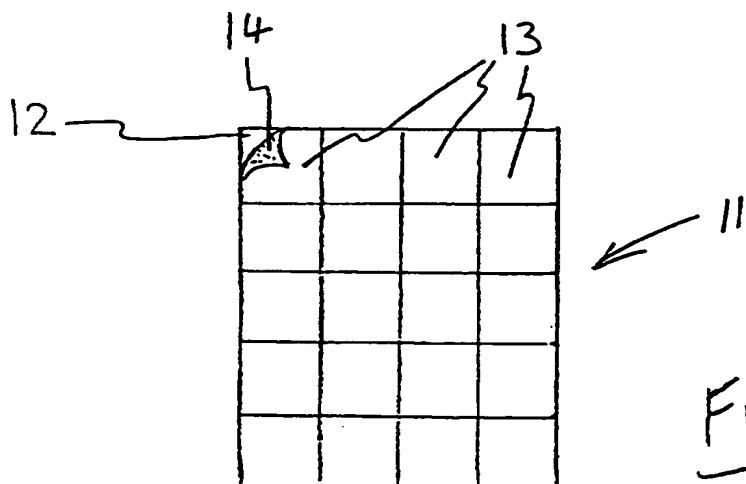


FIG 4

**MOUNTING POSTERS**

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**TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to articles of the kind which generally carry printed or hand-applied matter, which may be of an artistic, promotional or informative nature. In most cases the articles are formed of sheets of paper or thin card, but less commonly, they may be of other flexible materials. For convenience, such articles will be collectively referred to herein simply as "posters".

**BACKGROUND**

In schools, homes and offices posters are frequently secured to a wall or other surface for display. In the past, means of attachment such as drawing pins and adhesive tape have been used, but these cause damage either to the poster itself and/or the surface to which it is attached.

In recent years it has become commonplace to hang posters using pieces of adhesive putty interposed between the rear of the poster and the surface. However, in the case of posters of a porous nature the putty tends to be absorbed into the poster so that any attempt to remove the putty or move the

poster can result in damage to the poster.

The present invention seeks to provide a new and inventive means of securing posters to a surface.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention proposes a method of attaching a poster to a surface which comprises the steps of:

- peeling pre-shaped protective elements from a protective backing sheet, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are releasably secured to said backing sheet;
- applying said elements to the rear of a poster at selected mutually spaced positions such that said elements become attached thereto by means of said pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
- attaching said poster to a surface using lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

The invention further provides a poster having pre-shaped protective elements applied to the rear of said poster at selected mutually spaced positions, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are attached to said poster, said poster being attached to a surface by lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following description and the accompanying drawings referred to therein are included by way of non-limiting example in order to illustrate how the invention may be put into practice. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a general view of a reel of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention,

Figure 2 is a general view of a poster mounted on a wall in accordance with the invention,

Figure 3 is a detail of corner of the poster, viewed from the rear, and

Figure 4 is a front view of a sheet of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 1 there is provided a roll 1 formed of a strip 2 of a flexible material to which pressure-sensitive adhesives can be releasably secured such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE. The said material provides a combined releasable carrier and protective backing sheet to which individual tabs 3 are secured. The tabs 3 may be of any pre-formed shape, but they preferably have two adjacent straight and mutually perpendicular edges. In this example the tabs are

rectangular. The tabs 3 are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 4 applied to one surface. The said adhesive temporarily attaches the tabs 3 to the backing sheet 2 prior to use, which in turn protects the adhesive layer against contamination by dust or dirt.

As shown in Fig. 2, the tabs 3 are used in mounting a poster 5 formed of paper or thin card, on a rigid substrate such as a wall 6. It will be appreciated that the poster could equally be mounted on any other suitable surface such as a door or ceiling for example. Firstly, the required number of tabs 3 (in this case four) are peeled from the backing 2 and applied to suitable mutually spaced positions on the rear surface of the poster 5. Generally it will be convenient to mount one tab in each corner, although tabs could also be placed in other positions, particularly if the poster is large. Also, when mounting the tabs at the corners of the poster it is preferred to align two mutually perpendicular edges of the tabs with the two edges of the poster so that the rear surface of the poster is completely covered at the corners. Similarly, the other tabs are preferably aligned with one edge of the poster. This greatly assists in removal of the poster without damage (see below). The adhesive layer is thus used to permanently attach the tabs to the poster, using application of moderate pressure to ensure a good bond.

The poster is then mounted on the surface using lumps of proprietary adhesive putty 7 (Fig. 3) which are applied to the exposed non-adhesive surfaces of the tabs 3. Again moderate pressure is applied to bond the putty to the tabs, following which the poster is then applied to a wall using application of finger-pressure through the poster to ensure that the lumps of

putty become firmly bonded to the tabs and the surface of the wall. Care should be exercised to ensure that the size of the lumps and their positioning does not result in direct contact between the putty and the poster.

If required, the poster can be removed by severing the bond between the putty and either the wall and/or the tabs. By ensuring that the tabs are aligned with the edges of the poster during application thereto it is ensured that, during removal, the user grips and pulls the tabs rather than the poster alone, so that the risk of damage to the poster is reduced. The tabs serve several functions:

- They prevent the putty from being absorbed into the paper.
- They strengthen the paper and prevent it from tearing in the region of the putty.
- They form a release interface for easy separation between the putty and the tabs.

In the worst case, any putty still adhering to the tabs can be scraped off the tabs without causing damage to the poster.

As a result, the poster is undamaged and can be re-hung by applying fresh putty to the existing tabs, or fresh tabs can be applied to the rear of the poster if desired.

It will be appreciated that the roll of tabs shown in Fig. 1 is by way of illustration only. As shown in Fig. 4, the tabs could also be provided in the form of flat sheets 11, which each incorporate a number of tabs, as shown, or a single tab. The backing sheet 12 is again formed of a suitable flexible

material such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE to provide a releasable carrier for the tabs 13. In this example the tabs are again rectangular, but they could be of other shapes as discussed above. The tabs are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 14 applied to one surface to releasably secure them to the backing sheet 12 prior to use.

It will be appreciated that the features disclosed herein may be present in any feasible combination. Whilst the above description lays emphasis on those areas which, in combination, are believed to be new, protection is claimed for any inventive combination of the features disclosed herein.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CLAIMS**

1. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to one surface by which the said pre-shaped piece is releasably secured to a protective backing sheet.
2. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1, when attached to the rear of posters or other items at mutually spaced positions, offers protection against damage that may occur to said posters and other items when using adhesive putty or sticky tape to attach said posters or other items to a wall or other surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape.
3. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 may be of any pre-formed shape, but preferably have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges.
4. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 3 which may be made from polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polythene, or any other such suitable material or a combination of these materials.
5. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 which may be made from wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or other non-stick material such as PTFE or a combination of these materials.
6. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 5 to which a pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 4, can be releasably attached, provides a combined releasable carrier and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust or dirt.
7. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

**Related Proceedings Appendix**

None